

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus, comprising:
  - a sensor section which includes a color line sensor which reads a color image and a monochrome line sensor which reads a monochrome image provided in parallel with and a specific distance away from the color line sensor;
  - an input section which inputs a document image to the color line sensor and the monochrome line sensor;[[ and]]
  - a control section which, when reading an image from a document by use of the input section, starts the reading of an image by the color line sensor and the reading of an image by the monochrome line sensor with the same timing;
  - a counter which counts a number corresponding to the specific distance by which the color line sensor and the monochrome line sensor are separated;
  - a first storage section which stores an image read by the monochrome line sensor;
  - a second storage section which stores an image read by the color line sensor; and
  - a start control section which starts to store an image read by either the color line sensor or the monochrome line sensor provided in a position corresponding to the trailing edge in the image reading direction of the sensor section, after the counter has counted the number corresponding to the specific distance.
- 2.-5. (Canceled).
6. (Currently Amended) An image reading method, comprising:
  - accepting an instruction to read an image from a document; [[and]]
  - starting the reading of an image by a color line sensor and the reading of an image by a monochrome line sensor provided in parallel with and a specific distance away from the color line sensor with the same timing;
  - counting a number corresponding to the specific distance by which the color line sensor and the monochrome line sensor are separated; and

storing image data read by either the color line sensor or the monochrome line sensor provided on the trailing edge side in the image reading direction, after the number corresponding to the specific distance is counted.

7.-10. (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) The image reading method according to claim [[10]] 6, further comprising:

discarding the image data read by either the color line sensor or the monochrome line sensor provided on the trailing edge side in the image reading direction, before the number corresponding to the specific distance is counted.